

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/781,372

Examiner

Vikram Bali

Applicant(s)

FLOEDER ET AL.

Art Unit

2623

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/14/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-22, 24-49, and 51 (renumbered as 1-47).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2/12/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

In response to the amendment filed on 12/14/2004, all the amendments to the claims have been entered and the action follows:

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1, 4-22, 24-49, and 51 (renumbered as 1-47) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:  
Claims 1, 19, 48 and 49 with their respective dependent claims are allowed because prior art alone or in combination with fails to disclose or suggest a method of inspecting a continuously moving web that includes a digital data stream corresponding to each sequential portion describes pixels in an X domain corresponding to their position across the web, binarizing digital data stream, forming a blob list from the data stream by determining collections of pixels connected to each other in the X domain so as to define segments and resolving line to line whether connections exist between segments in a Y domain corresponding to the direction of web movement, in combination to the other elements of the claim.

Claim 5 is allowed because prior art alone or in combination with fails to disclose or suggest a method of imaging and comparing a portion of a continuously moving web

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that includes binarizing the digital data stream prior to forming the blob list, the binarizing comprising, identifying at least one sequential portion having substantially the entire range of optical properties characteristics of the web, identifying the pixel values corresponding to local maxima and minima, defining a range bounded by the lowest value among the pixel values identified as local maxima and the highest value among the pixel values identified as local minima, calculating a threshold value within the range in combination to the other elements of the claim.

Claims 20, 36 and 42 with their respective dependent claims are allowed because prior art alone or in combination with fails to disclose or suggest a method of inspecting a continuously moving web having a repeating pattern that includes calculating information on the lengths of collections of pixels connected to each other in a Y domain corresponding to the direction of web movement, modifying the lengths of the collections of pixels in at least one of the X domain, the Y domain, or both domains, by a first determined number, preparing a new blob list based on the modified lengths, and comparing the number of blobs on the new blob list against a second determined number, in combination to the other elements of the claim.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vikkram Bali whose telephone number is 571.272.7415. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on 571.272.7414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Vikkram Bali  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2623

vb  
April 14, 2005